**True Friends**

*A friend loves at all times (Proverbs 17:17)*

**Opening Prayer**

Loving Jesus, you have called us to love one another as you have loved us. We thank you for your gift of friendship. Our true friends, like you, encourage us to hope, strengthen our prayers, keep our secrets, support us in times of need, and bless us with their love. May we be ever thankful for our friends.

**Amen**

**Scripture:** John 15: 12-17

**Litany: Friendship**

**All: In true friendship, there is complete trust.**

You can be open with no locks on the doors to your heart.

**All: There is mutual richness.**

You can give and give and give and yet gain and gain and gain.

**All: There is no race or colour limitation.**

All are welcome, no matter their colour, race or creed.

**All: With a true friend you can be yourself.**

There is no fear of ridicule or rejection.

**All: Your history is an open book.**

Your friend knows and accepts where you’ve been.

**All: Your present is not hidden.**

Your friend sees and understands where you are.

**All: Your future is apparent.**

Your friend acknowledges what you will become and encourages you to grow to your potential.

**All: A true friend is always there to cry with you.**

When you sorrow,

**All: Laugh with you**

When you rejoice,

**All: Pray with you**

When you seek spiritual guidance.

**All: A true friend will hold you up**

When you need support,

**All: Will give you wings to fly**

So you can soar without fear of falling.

**All: A true friend can read your mind with their hearts.**

They know when you mourn

**All: And when you rejoice.**

They know when you celebrate your successes

**All: And when you endure your failures.**

And they share in all these experiences

**All: Whether happy or hurtful, beneficial or bad.**

**All: Thank you, Jesus, for the gift of friends.**

**Closing Prayer**

Lord of friendship,

Walk beside us.

Stand with us.

Let our spirits move to the rhythm of your love.

Open the doors to new worlds.

Engage us in new experiences.

Believe in us,

Love us,

Watch us soar.

Teach us to truly appreciate our friends

We make our prayer

Through our greatest friend, Jesus.

**Amen**